



Office of Administrative Services
Freedom of Information Act Office

December 19, 2014

Mr. John Hawkinson
P.O. Box 397103
Cambridge, MA 02139-7103

Dear Mr. Hawkinson:

This is in response to your U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (number GSA-2015-000231), dated December 12, 2014, in which you requested "[a]ccess to and copies of all electronic submissions in response to the Request for Information for the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center dated August 26, 2014."

Unfortunately, we are unable to fulfill your FOIA request for all electronic submissions in response to the Request for Information for the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center dated August 26, 2014. This denial is based upon the fourth statutory exemption of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4) as the release of such information would cause competitive harm to the businesses that submitted this information. This exemption protects trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential. As such; estimated costs, base fees, award fees and funding amounts are being withheld because it could lead to reverse engineering and allow competitors to derive specific cost information. Cost information and indirect handling rates are proprietary and confidential in nature. The release of this information would cause irreparable competitive harm and could provide an unfair competitive advantage to competitors. In addition, it could lead to the bargaining down of the contractor's prices in the commercial marketplace.

This constitutes a full denial under FOIA. You may appeal this decision to the General Services Administration no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days from receipt of this decision by writing to the following address:

U.S. General Services Administration
FOIA Requester Service Center (H1C)
1800 F St. NW, Room 7308
Washington, DC 20405

Your appeal must in writing and should contain a brief statement of the reasons why you believe GSA should have the requested information. Enclose a copy of your initial request and a copy of this letter. Both the appeal letter and envelope should be marked prominently, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405
Telephone: (202) 501-0800
Fax: (202) 501-2727

This completes our action on this request. Should you have any press-related questions, please contact Mr. Patrick Sclafani, Lead Public Affairs Specialist at (617) 565-5112 or by email at patrick.sclafani@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

Travis Lewis

FOIA Program Manager